



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Federal Disaster Loans for
Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U. S. Small Business Administration
P. O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841-9004

Disaster Area 4 Office
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Release Date: February 6, 2004

Disaster News Release

SBA Opens Disaster Center to Help Victims of Serena Apartment Fire Federal Disaster Loans Now Available

Sacramento, CA – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), declared Orange County a disaster area due to damage caused by the Serena Apartment Fire on December 2, 2003 in Santa Ana. SBA's disaster declaration makes low-interest Federal disaster loans available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the apartment fire. This action responds to a request from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

According to Bruce Thompson, SBA Regional Administrator, SBA is opening a disaster center in **Santa Ana at 8 am on Tuesday, February 10** to assist victims in applying for these low-interest disaster loans. "To provide maximum help to affected individuals and businesses, SBA loan officers will be on hand at **The Depot at Santa Ana, 1000 E. Santa Ana Blvd., Suite 200** (cross streets are Santa Ana Blvd. and Santiago St.), to meet with each disaster victim," Thompson said.

The center will be open **Tuesdays through Fridays from 8 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 5 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm**. The center will temporarily close at 2 pm on **Saturday, February 28**. SBA will re-open the center on **Tuesday, March 30 through Monday, April 5** (closed Sunday, April 4). The hours will remain the same. "SBA's loan officers will answer specific questions about how a disaster loan from SBA may help each victim recover from the disaster damage, and will provide one-on-one assistance in completing their loan application," he continued.

According to Sandra Sutton, SBA's Santa Ana District Director, disaster loans of up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

"Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. Additionally, Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available to small businesses," Sutton said.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA's disaster center may obtain information and loan applications by writing to SBA at P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841-9004, or by calling toll-free (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 735-1683.

Applications for property damage must be returned to SBA by **April 5, 2004**. Applications for economic injury must be returned by **November 5, 2004**.

For more information visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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